

Falls Church Senior Citizens Commission

Minutes of Meeting

September 19, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Bea Brady at 4:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Jan Greenberg, Kate Ripley, Bea Brady, Susan Pollack, Mary Hood, Ann O'Neil

Staff: Letha Flippin, Leslyn Barrow

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes for the May, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

4. OLD BUSINESS

City Swimming Pool – Commissioners continued to discuss options for pursuing a swimming pool in the City. It was recognized that this is a major undertaking that is beyond the capacity of the Commission alone. Commissioners suggested contacting other community groups that might be interested in a pool to solicit support and assistance. In order to help determine if this project is feasible, Commissioners would like to learn more about the overall process of building a city facility. It was noted that the Community Center renovation, completed a few years ago, was a similar project. Letha Flippin was asked to invite Howard Herman, General Manager, Community Services Department to the October meeting to describe the process that was followed for that renovation, and also ask for his input on the feasibility and necessary steps to go forward with the swimming pool proposal.

Invitation from HSAC – Commissioners are invited to attend future meetings of the Human Services Advisory Council to explore opportunities for collaboration. The October meeting is scheduled for Thursday the 18th at 7 p.m.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- Election of Officers – Jan Greenberg nominated and Ann O'Neil seconded the nomination of Susan Pollack for Chair of the Senior Commission. The nomination passed unanimously. Bea Brady nominated and Jan Greenberg seconded the nomination of Ann O'Neil for Vice-Chair of the Commission. This nomination also passed unanimously.
- Commission Goals – Commissioners discussed goals for the coming year and decided to continue to support efforts to have a municipal swimming pool built. Ann O'Neil shared a copy of the Emergency Preparedness brochure published by the City's Communications Office and delivered to all households and encouraged the Commission not only to review it, but to help promote community awareness of the information. Suggestions included holding a community program or outreach at events like the Farmers Market or Fall Festival. The Commission briefly discussed distributing supplies listed in the brochure. Letha Flippin was asked to invite Nicole Gobbo, Communications Director, to the November meeting to explore ways the Commission might become involved in promoting community awareness of the need for emergency preparedness. Finally, the Commission will also consider an activity to recognize Older Americans Month in May.

- Annual Report to City Council – It was agreed that the Commission’s Annual Report to the City Council will be delivered in person by Susan Pollack and other Commissioners at the regular meeting of the City Council on October 22. At that time, Susan will ask the Council for direction on pursuing a community swimming pool. Commissioners decided that the report will include a recommendation that signage be placed on major roads in the City indicating the location of municipal services (City Hall, Police). The report will also include the Commission’s support for the Northern Virginia Aging Network’s (NVAN) 2008 Legislative Platform with special emphasis on the proposed requirement for assisted living residences to report communicable disease outbreaks to the local health department and to clarify agency authority to take action.

6. CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – The chair had no report.

7. STAFF REPORT –

- ◆ There is a vacancy on the Fairfax Area Commission of Aging (COA) for a City representative. The last City appointee to the COA was Jerry Ziskind.
- ◆ The Interest List for set-aside beds for low and moderate City residents and their immediate family members at Sunrise Assisted Living is open. To increase utilization a policy change was made to remove the asset limitation.
- ◆ The wait list for the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic is open to eligible City residents.
- ◆ The Virginia Coalition for the Aging Fall Meeting and Elder Rights Coalition Legislative Forum will be held in Richmond on October 19. Commissioners were encouraged to attend.
- ◆ A report was given on Northern Virginia Aging Network’s Legislative Breakfast held at Greenspring Retirement Community on September 11. Copies of the NVAN Legislative Platform with background information were distributed to Commissioners. Of special interest to the City is the continuing issue of protecting the health of residents living in assisted living facilities. Commissioners voted unanimously to support the NVAN legislative platform, with special emphasis on the recommendation that requires assisted living residences to report outbreaks of communicable diseases to the local health department. Commissioners were encouraged to attend NVAN meeting. The next meeting is November 20.
- ◆ Commissioners were reminded that the East Wing of City Hall will be undergoing renovations in the near future.
- ◆ A Conference on elder abuse will be held at Greenspring Retirement Community on Thursday, Oct. 27. Topics will include identifying abuse and information for families.
- ◆ Effective October, Leslyn Barrow will be the staff liaison to the Senior Citizens Commission. Susan Pollack officially thanked Letha Flippin for her hard work and assistance to the Commission over the past several years.

ADJOURNMENT– the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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